

Primary Curriculum

1. Language
2. Mathematics
3. Cultural Studies
4. History
5. Science
6. Practical Life
7. Sensorial
8. Music
9. Movement and Fitness

The Absorbent Mind; The conscious period

(Ages 3 – 6 years)

Young children take in a tremendous amount of information from their environment with what Maria Montessori called the absorbent mind. Our Primary Program provides an enriching and nurturing hands-on learning experience with specially formulated Montessori materials for math, language, sensorial exploration, practical life activities, art, science, and geography. The necessity of making choices and using coordinated movements to accomplish tasks leads the child toward self-regulation and self-control. Children develop observation and problem-solving skills.

By manipulating, experimenting, and discovering, children begin to move from the concrete to the abstract learning as they prepare themselves for the more complex studies at Noble World Elementary Program.

1. Language

Children are learning language long before entering the Montessori classroom. By using their senses as tools, children absorb information about their language. During the first two years of Primary Class, students prepare themselves for language study by working in the practical life and sensorial areas with materials that refine auditory, oral, visual, and sensory/motor skills which are necessary for writing and reading in the third year. Language spans every other area as an integrated source of preparation for a well-planned approach to further learning.

Auditory preparation

- ♥ Conversational speech
- ♥ Identifying and discriminating sounds
- ♥ Storytelling
- ♥ Sequencing
- ♥ Repetition
- ♥ Poetry
- ♥ Rhymes and finger plays
- ♥ Listening skills and comprehension

Visual preparation

- ♥ Recognizing patterns
- ♥ Matching and sorting

Motor preparation

- ♥ Eye-to-hand coordination
- ♥ Strengthening of the hand
- ♥ Handwriting
 - ♠ Manuscript
 - ♠ Introduction to cursive in the third year

Analysis

- ♥ Phonogram sounds
- ♥ Blends

Reading on word level

- ♥ Phonics
- ♥ Reading in context

Correct expression

- ♥ Vocabulary of objects, attributes, and actions
- ♥ Informal discussion

Function of words

- ♥ Beginning writing
- ♥ Introduction of noun identification
- ♥ Introduction of verb identification

2. Mathematics

Maria Montessori proposed that logical thought stems from the human mind's ability to organize and categorize. The aim of the math curriculum at this level is to help children develop their thought processes, not to teach math facts at an early age. With hands-on materials, students begin to understand the concrete through manipulation and experimentation which prepares them for abstract study at the Elementary level.

Numbers 0-10

Goals: Establish numbers one to ten. Understand quantity and sequence of numbers using manipulative. Establish recognition of numerical symbols. Learn relationship of quantity to symbol.

- ♥ Number rods and cards
- ♥ Set baskets
- ♥ Spindle boxes

- ♥ Sandpaper numbers
- ♥ Cards and counters

Decimal System

Goals: Understand the concept of base ten. Learn composition of numbers, including place value and equivalencies.

- ♥ Introduction tray
- ♥ Tray of nine
- ♥ Golden Bead (or 45) layout
- ♥ Numeral
- ♥ Bead and numeral layout
- ♥ Number fetching
- ♥ Bank game

Numbers 11-99

Goals: Ability to recognize teens and tens.

- ♥ Bead stair
- ♥ Teens' board
- ♥ Tens' board (or 45) layout

Linear Counting

Goals: Develop ability to recognize and count to any number. Learn skip counting. .

- ♥ Hundred board
- ♥ 100 (square) chains
- ♥ 1000 (cube) chains (or 45) layout

Operations

Goal: Provide a concrete introduction to the four basic arithmetic operations. Moves into abstract work with operations.

- ♥ Golden Beads
 - ♠ Addition
 - ♠ Multiplication
 - ♠ Subtraction
 - ♠ Division
- ♥ Stamp Game
 - ♠ Addition
 - ♠ Multiplication

- ♣ Subtraction
- ♣ Division
- ♥ Bead Board
 - ♣ Multiplication
 - ♣ Division
- ♥ Bead Frame

Continued Operations/Passage to Abstraction

- ♥ Addition
 - ♣ Snake game
 - ♣ Addition strip board
 - ♣ Addition charts
- ♥ Multiplication
 - ♣ Bead bars
 - ♣ Multiplication boards
 - ♣ Multiplication charts
- ♥ Subtraction
 - ♣ Negative snake game
 - ♣ Subtraction strip board
 - ♣ Subtraction charts
- ♥ Fractions
 - ♣ Names(wholes-ninths)
- ♥ Money
 - ♣ Denominations

Geometry

- ♥ Geometric solids
- ♥ Geometry cabinet
 - ♣ Regular polygons
 - ♣ Quadrilaterals
 - ♣ Triangles
 - ♣ Circles
 - ♣ Curved figures

3. Cultural Studies

The Primary classroom integrates cultural studies through literature, activities, and materials. Maria Montessori had a unique way of defining cultural studies - she incorporated the specific areas of history, geography, physical sciences, botany, and zoology into the studies within this area. These components support Montessori's strong belief in the need for global education. Exploration and inquiry are encouraged by fostering and nurturing the young child's curiosity.

By exploring in the cultural studies area the child defines his individual spirit as well as a sense of wonder of people and the world.

4. History

Noble World Montessori School presents a school-wide, three-year rotation of content so special events such as cultural festivals, celebration of one's tradition and culture, International Night, field trips, and reading lists can be thematically planned for the whole school. Each year, a central question is posed and each level has its own sub-questions that focus the lessons and studies. Each level delves into the year's subject according to its appropriate developmental capabilities.

Year one-Ancient civilizations

The school-wide question is "How and why were ancient civilizations created?" The Primary Class focus is "What is ancient?" "What is a civilization?" and "What is a story?"

Year two-American civilization

The school-wide central question is "How and why has American civilization changed? The Primary Class focus is "How did America begin?" "What people shaped America?" and "Where did they come from?"

Year three-World civilizations

The school-wide central question is "How and why do world civilizations connect?" The Primary Class focus is "What do all people need to survive?" "How are people around the world the same or different?" and "What is peace?"

Geography

- ♥ Globe
- ♥ Maps and continents
- ♥ Land and water forms
- ♥ Planets

5. Science

The science materials live in the cultural studies area in a Primary Class classroom. Maria Montessori had a unique way of defining cultural studies-she incorporated the specific areas of history, geography, physical sciences, botany, and zoology into the studies within this area. These components support Montessori's strong belief in the need for global education. Exploration and inquiry are encouraged by fostering and nurturing the young child's curiosity. By exploring in the cultural studies area the child defines his individual spirit as well as a sense of wonder of people and the world.

Life science

- ♥ Botany-plant care, tree and leaf studies, flowers, gardening
- ♥ Zoology-animal husbandry, animals kingdoms, vertebrate/invertebrate

Physical science

- ♥ Magnetism
- ♥ Sink and float

Earth science

- ♥ Weather/seasons

Scientific reasoning and technology

- ♥ Observation skills

6. Practical Life

The Practical Life Curriculum is the cornerstone of the Montessori Method. Its goals span the three-year age cycle, providing practical experience in everyday activities. These activities not only teach physical skills, but also prepare the children for subsequent or concurrent work in mathematics, language, and socialization. The necessity of making choices and using coordinated movements to accomplish a task leads the child toward self-regulation and independence. The ultimate lesson, however, is concentration - without it nothing else is possible.

Physical skills

- ♥ Basic movements
 - ♣ Pulling out a chair, carrying a tray, etc...
- ♥ Gross and fine motor skills
- ♥ Use of activities that promote concentration, coordination, independence, and order

Respect and care of environment

- ♥ Indoor and outdoor
- ♥ Recycling

Grace, courtesy, and etiquette

- ♥ Caring about others
- ♥ Problem solving
- ♥ Conflict resolution
- ♥ Peace lesson (to help find their inner peace).

Independence

- ♥ Care of person
- ♥ Health and safety
- ♥ Nutrition and food preparation

Community service

- ♥ Developing an awareness of needs of others
- ♥ Participating in several service projects throughout the school year

7. Sensorial

The Sensorial Curriculum is the key to knowledge in the Montessori classroom. It builds on the foundation of the Practical Life Curriculum and prepares children to progress into academic work through development of observation and problem-solving skills. The sensorial materials are designed to develop and refine skills that help young children learn how to think, reason, make distinctions, make judgments and decisions, observe, compare, and better appreciate their world. This is the beginning of conscious knowledge. Students learn to distinguish and differentiate, and discriminate physical properties through:

Auditory learning

- ♥ Sound

Visual learning

- ♥ Color
- ♥ Size
- ♥ Shape
- ♥ Gradation

Tactile learning

- ♥ Texture
- ♥ Weight

8. Music

Music curriculum combines individual and group work with work designed to appeal to a variety of learning styles. This directly relates to our philosophy of enhancing the Montessori philosophy with other innovative methods. The Music curriculum also offers significant opportunities to build community through our numerous performances, field trips, and performances.

Primary Class

- ♥ Understand tempo
- ♥ Keep a steady beat
- ♥ Matching pitch
- ♥ Singing in unison
- ♥ Introduction to aspects of drama

9. Movement and Fitness

The ultimate goal of the Noble World Movement and Fitness Program is to assist all children along the path to lifetime physical fitness, which is also in line with our holistic philosophy. The benefits of this journey are many: health, longevity, positive body image, improved overall self-esteem, and increased energy and concentration in all areas. All students from Toddler through Elementary program participate regularly in Movement Arts classes and activities.

Movement Arts at NWMS embraces the philosophy of the school as a whole. The program, at each level, is responsive to the needs and interests of the children, and the ultimate goal is the joyful discovery of movement and its benefits, both physical and psychological.

NWMS Movement Arts seeks to benefit all children, not just those with particular interest or talent in this area. Volumes have been written about the connection between body image and overall self-esteem, as well as the dangers of introducing children to competitive sports at an early age. Care is taken to keep the emphasis on fitness and fun, as opposed to individual superiority of skills.

Primary Class

- ♥ Basic locomotors and axial movement activities
- ♥ Creative self-expression through movement
- ♥ Basic manipulative skills with movement props